

Discussion Prompts for *The Plague* Close Reading Activity 2 – The City of Oran

- 1) To what extent is “the sky” a main focal point of each of your depictions? Why could it be? What does the sky represent and how does it evoke the idea of the collective consciousness or the zeitgeist?
- 2) How do you *concretely* represent “the feel of the air”?
- 3) “A spring cried in the marketplace” – how could one *concretely* represent this personification as a visual?
- 4) “Our wall with grayish dust” implies an antithesis of whitewashing as it paints a picture of time accumulated through a patina. Who picked up on this particular image and how did you depict it and frame it? Why did you do so in the manner you did?
- 5) The evocation of fire is a concrete detail meant to convey an abstract concept/idea? What is this concept or idea? How can you frame this image in a way to emphasize the connotation behind the image of the “fire indoors”?
- 6) “Deluge” has two definitions. Which one did you depict in your sketch of fall time in Oran?
- 7) The image of winter in Oran is the idyllic image. How could one make sure this image stands in juxtaposition to the other three sketches? What details, or lack thereof, is most remarkable?